

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/535,096

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

Applicant(s)

GOOSSEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/20/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 50-67.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Patrick Lujin on 09/13/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 43-49 have been canceled.

- Adding new dependent claims 61-67, which depend from new independent claim 60 and correspond to dependent claims 51-57 (see new claims 61-67 in the attached document)
- In the second line of claim 51, inserting "a" before "menu"

Claim 51 (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 50, wherein the window object is representative of a menu, the method further comprising the steps of :

retrieving a set of menu entries for the menu;

displaying the set of menu entries;

receiving a menu entry selection signal indicative of the user interface selection

device pointing at one of the menu entries; displaying a visual indication of the menu

entry selection; blending the visual indication of the menu entry selection and any

underlying graphics such that the visual indication of the menu entry selection

progressively fades until it is no longer visible.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended). A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of animating window objects on a display in a computer system having a graphical user interface including the display and a user interface selection device, the method comprising:
obtaining a window object to be displayed on the display;
attributing the window object a variable translucency;
compositing the window object with any underlying objects; and
varying the translucency of the window object to create an animation of the window object.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 60,
wherein the window object is representative of a menu, the method further
comprising the steps of:
retrieving a set of menu entries for the menu;
displaying the set of menu entries;
receiving a menu entry selection signal indicative of the user interface selection
device pointing at one of the menu entries;
displaying a visual indication of the menu entry selection; and
blending the visual indication of the menu entry selection and any underlying
graphics such that the visual indication of the menu entry selection progressively
fades until it is no longer visible.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 61, wherein the step of displaying the visual indication includes highlighting the menu entry selection with a solid color.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 61, wherein the blending step includes progressively displaying the highlighted menu entry selection in a faded manner.

Claim 64 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 61, wherein the step of displaying the visual indication includes attributing an opaqueness value to the visual indication.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 64, wherein the opaqueness value is an integer having values between approximately 0 and 255.

Claim 66 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 64, wherein the blending step includes reducing the opaqueness value attributed to the visual indication of the menu entry selection.

Claim 67 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 60 further comprising the step of displaying a visual indication of the window object, wherein the varying step includes adjusting the translucency of the window object such that the visual indication of the window object progressively fades in until it is fully non-translucent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 50-67 are allowed over the prior art of records.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant has claimed uniquely distinct features in the instant invention which are not found in the prior art either singularly or in combination of a method of obtaining a window object to be displayed on the display; attributing the window object a variable translucency; compositing the window object with any underlying objects; and varying the translucency of the window object to create an animation of the window object.

The closest prior art, Gough and Frank discloses a conventional of the overlaying window having been rendered translucent, the opaque window portion within the overlapping; either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underline limitation obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

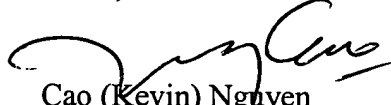
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)272-4053. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571)272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Cao (Kevin) Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2173

09/16/06